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ABSTRACT

California community colleges enroll nearly 1.3 million students in regular instruction (excluding community services). This represents 11% of all higher education enrollments in the nation, or one out of every eight California adults. Using 1975-76 enrollment statistics, these students are characterized as 49% female, 36.2% married or formerly married, 24% minority, 19% veterans receiving benefits, 9% physically handicapped, 31% eligible for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), 29% full-time, 86% enrolled for credit, and 36% attending evening courses only. The average age is 27. Nearly one-third of all full-time students are economically disadvantaged. Sixty-one percent of all students are enrolled in vocational education programs. Of the vocational education students, 42.4% are or have been married, 35.2% are of minority background, and 30.3% are veterans. Compared to non-vocational students, vocational students are more likely to possess a disability which limits their college participation, to be older, self-supporting and working more than 30 hours per week, to come from low income families, to be served by Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, to be receiving food stamps, and to be receiving state vocational rehabilitation grants. Appended is a table indicating enrollment by curriculum and supporting data in chi-square format. (RT)

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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS: A BRIEF PROFILE
OF THOSE ENROLLED, PARTICULARLY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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Jc 770 439

Analytical Studies Unit
Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges
May 23, 1977

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

A BRIEF PROFILE OF THOSE ENROLLED, PARTICULARLY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

This profile has been prepared in response to a request at the last meeting of the Joint Committee on Vocational Education. The Committee expressed interest in examining a profile of those student served by Community Colleges, particularly in Vocational Education programs. The following profile was prepared in a short period of time and some of these data are presented for the first time. Consequently, this must be considered as preliminary. Further work is underway to design a procedure to extract such information from a sample of student file data contained in the Chancellor's Office Information System. In this proposed procedure, vocational education students may be identified using methodology developed in the Student Accountability Model project.

Data for this profile are drawn from a variety of sources including the Chancellor's Office Information System, Vocational Education reports, and a study of Community College students conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB). Data samples are varied and data definitions not always as precise as they might be. However, after noting possible bias and correcting for invalid reporting, a number of conclusions may be drawn with a reasonable degree of confidence.

A general profile of students is first reviewed. This is followed by a comparison of vocational and non-vocational students. While there is some emphasis on total numbers of individuals, the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of these students are of primary concern here.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

The California Community Colleges enroll nearly 1.3 million students in regular instruction (excluding community services). This enrollment accounts for 11% of all higher education enrollments in the nation or, stated differently, approximately one of every eight California adults.

Of these students, nearly half are women, one-fourth are of minority racial and ethnic background, and nearly one-fifth are veterans receiving benefits. The average age is twenty seven. (See Table 1.)

Nearly one-third of all full-time students are economically disadvantaged; i.e., eligible for EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services). EOPS eligibility is based upon an annual income of less than \$7,500 for a family of four. An estimated one in ten students are handicapped; i.e., possess a physical, communication, or learning disability.

No data are readily available on the number of students who may possess other educational disadvantages, possibly requiring remediation, or those who may be limited English speaking.

Three of ten students enroll full-time. Just over one-third attend college only at night and one-seventh attend only ungraded or non-credit courses.

The 1,284,000 Fall 1975 enrollment fell eight percent (typical) to a Spring 1976 level of 1,181,000. These enrollments generated some 771,000 Average Daily Attendance (ADA) after discounting for (a) those who withdrew or dropped classes during the term and (b) the standard reduction of 9% to approximate actual class attendance.

ADA were concentrated in courses in the subject areas of business and management, Social Science, Education, Fine and Applied Arts, and Engineering and Related Fields. (See Table 2.) Sixty-five percent of all ADA were generated in courses held during the day and 91% in credit (as opposed to non-credit) classes. The predominant instructional method during 1975-76 was the lecture, comprising 59% of instruction with 8% of instruction taught through work experience, individualized instruction or other non-classroom or non-laboratory methods.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

It is estimated that three-fifths of all Community College enrollees pursue some occupational training goal. (See Table 3.) At the same time, nearly two-fifths of all College ADA are generated in classes that are qualified under standards specified in the State Plan for Vocational Education. This suggests that VEA students are more often part-time than non-VEA students.

VEA ADA were concentrated in the subject areas of Business and Management, Engineering and Related Fields, Public Affairs and Services, Health Sciences, Home Economics, and Apprenticeship.

Further analysis of VEA students may be derived in part from the 1974-75 CEEB survey of 12 Community Colleges and 8,700 students. This survey is underrepresented in northern rural colleges, part-time student (44%, rather than the 70%), females 46%, rather than the 49%), and older students (the average age is 22 years, rather than 27). The sample is, however, generally representative for other socio-economic variables such as racial and ethnic background and family income.

The lack of part-time older students suggests that the sample is under-represented in VEA students. This is confirmed by the fact that 48% of the sample (in contrast to the 61% 1974-75 estimate) classified themselves broadly as pursuing an occupational skill or certificate, rather than being enrolled in a transfer program or other type of program such as personal enrichment or high school or other college preparatory work.

The CEEB sample contains too many young males attending full-time. However, there is no reason to believe that this bias seriously distorts the conclusions drawn in the following analysis. This analysis emphasizes significant differences between VEA and non-VEA students, rather than the total character of the sample.

VEA student, in contrast to non-VEA students, are more likely to be:

- (a) older,
 - (b) married or formerly married,
 - (c) of minority racial and ethnic background,
 - (d) veterans, and
 - (e) more likely to possess a disability which limits their college participation.
- (See Table 4 through 8.)

VEA student also are more likely to be:

- (a) self supporting and working more than 30 hours per week,

- (b) from low income families,
- (c) served by EOPS,
- (d) receiving food stamps, and
- (e) receiving state vocational rehabilitation grants. (See Tables 9 through 13.)

A number of other significant differences exist between the two populations. These, however, appear attributable to either survey sampling and response bias or ambiguous wording of survey questions.

Table 1

COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS, 1975-76

Total Fall 1975 Enrolment		1,284,407			
Full-Time	29%	Male	51%	Non-Minority	76%
Part-Time	71	Female	49	Minority	(24)
Veterans	19%			American Indian	1
(receiving				Asian	4
benefits)				Black	9
				Spanish Surname	9
				Filipino	1
Economically Disadvantaged		Age:			
EOPS eligible	31%	less than 19		22%	
EOPS served	11 ^a	20-24		24	
		25-29		17	
Handicapped	9%	30-34		11	
Served under VEA	3	more than 35		26	
Served under AB 77	2				
Day or Day and Evening	64%	Graded (Credit)		86%	
Evening Only	36	Non-graded (Non-credit)		14	

^aPercent of full-time enrollment, Part-Timers are not eligible.

SOURCE: Chancellor's Office Information System.

Table 2

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE, 1975-76

VEA QUALIFYING	NON-VEA QUALIFYING	TOTAL
Business and Management 28%	Social Science 16%	Business and Management 12%
Engineering and Related 17	Letters 15	Social Science 9
Public Services 11	Education 14	Letters 9
Health Sciences 10	Fine and Applied Arts 13	Education 9
Home Economics 7	Mathematics 7	Fine and Applied Arts 8
Apprenticeship 6	Psychology 7	Engineering and Related 7
Other 21	Physical Science 7	Mathematics 5
	Biological Science 6	Other 41
	Other 15	

Table 3

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND ADA

	1975-76	1974-75	1973-74
Total Enrollment	N/A	1,137,668	1,010,889
VEA Enrollment		1,137,668	1,010,889
Percent VEA		703,084	632,338
		61%	63%
Total ADA	772,704	683,212	N/A
VEA ADA	301,354	246,456	
Percent VEA	39%	36%	

SOURCES: Chancellor's Office Information System; VEA Reports.

Table 4

		VEA		NONVEA		
		1	2			TOTAL
		-----	-----			
		7.0%	9.8%			
		39.4%	60.6%			
18 OR UNDER						
	1					8.5%
		248	381			629
		-----	-----			
		17.5%	21.0%			
		43.2%	56.8%			
19						
	2					19.4%
		622	819			1441
		-----	-----			
		13.0%	15.0%			
		44.0%	56.0%			
20						
	3					14.1%
		460	586			1046
		-----	-----			
		8.1%	7.9%			
		48.4%	51.6%			
21						
	4					8.0%
		288	307			595
		-----	-----			
		10.7%	14.3%			
		40.6%	59.4%			
22-24						
	5					12.6%
		380	556			936
		-----	-----			
		17.0%	17.1%			
		47.6%	52.4%			
25-29						
	6					17.1%
		604	666			1270
		-----	-----			
		9.8%	6.5%			
		57.9%	42.1%			
30-34						
	7					8.0%
		346	252			598
		-----	-----			
		7.1%	4.2%			
		60.2%	39.8%			
35-40						
	8					5.6%
		250	165			415
		-----	-----			
		9.8%	4.2%			
		68.0%	32.0%			
41 +						
	9					6.9%
		348	164			512
		-----	-----			
PERCENT		47.6%	52.4%			100.0%
TOTAL		3546	3896			7442

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

CHI-SQUARE

189.220***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 8 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Table 5

		VEA	NONVEA	TOTAL
		1	2	
NEVER 0		57.6%	69.6%	
		43.1%	56.9%	
				63.8%
		2054	2717	4771
MARRIED 1		32.9%	22.6%	
		57.1%	42.9%	
				27.5%
		1174	881	2055
SEPARATED 2		2.2%	2.0%	
		49.0%	51.0%	
				2.1%
		77	80	157
MARITAL STATUS				
DIVORCED 3		5.5%	4.4%	
		53.6%	46.4%	
				4.9%
		196	170	366
WIDOWED 4		0.9%	0.5%	
		62.7%	37.3%	
				0.7%
		32	19	51
OTHER 5		1.0%	1.0%	
		48.6%	51.4%	
				1.0%
		36	38	74

PERCENT	47.8%	52.2%	100.0%
TOTAL	3569	3905	7474

CHI-SQUARE

124.315***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 5 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Table 6

RACE	VEA		NONVEA		TOTAL
	1	2			
AMER INDIAN 0	2.1%	1.0%			
	67.3%	32.7%			
					1.5%
	76	37			113
BLACK 1	5.5%	4.8%			
	50.9%	49.1%			
					5.1%
	193	186			379
CAUCASIAN 2	64.8%	67.1%			
	47.0%	53.0%			
					66.0%
	2295	2591			4886
CHICANO 3	14.2%	11.7%			
	52.6%	47.4%			
					12.9%
	502	453			955
ASIAN 4	4.9%	6.9%			
	39.6%	60.4%			
					5.9%
	174	265			439
OTHER SPAN 5	2.7%	2.0%			
	54.6%	45.4%			
					2.4%
	95	79			174
FILIPINO 6	1.2%	1.1%			
	50.0%	50.0%			
					1.2%
	44	44			88
OTHER 7	4.5%	5.4%			
	43.4%	56.6%			
					5.0%
	160	209			369
PERCENT		47.8%	52.2%	100.0%	
TOTAL		3539	3864	7403	

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

CHI-SQUARE

46.695***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 7 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Table 7

		VEA	NONVEA	
		1	2	TOTAL
VETERAN	YES 0	30.3%	23.3%	
		54.3%	45.7%	
		1070	900	26.6%
	NO 1	69.7%	76.7%	
		45.4%	54.6%	
		2464	2961	73.4%
			5425	
PERCENT		47.8%	52.2%	100.0%
TOTAL		3534	3861	7395

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

YATES CHI-SQUARE

45.476***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 1 DEGREE OF FREEDOM

Table 8

		VEA	NONVEA	TOTAL
		1	2	
HEARING 0		4.4%	3.0%	
		56.5%	43.5%	
				3.7%
		147	113	260
LIMR 1		5.4%	3.0%	
		61.9%	38.1%	
				4.1%
		180	111	291
HEALTH 2		2.7%	1.5%	
		62.3%	37.7%	
				2.1%
		91	55	146
MEMORY 3		3.8%	2.6%	
		56.7%	43.3%	
				3.2%
		127	97	224
LIMITATIONS in school caused by				
EMOTION 4		1.9%	3.1%	
		36.1%	63.9%	
				2.5%
		65	115	180
OTHER 5		19.6%	19.2%	
		48.0%	52.0%	
				19.4%
		659	713	1372
NONE 6		62.2%	67.7%	
		45.3%	54.7%	
				65.1%
		2085	2518	4603
PERCENT TOTAL		47.4%	52.6%	100.0%
		3354	3722	7076

CHI-SQUARE

71.497***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM
 UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
 PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

Table 9

		VEA	NONVEA		
		1	2	TOTAL	
NO	0	18.3%	18.3%	18.3%	1338
		47.6%	52.4%		
		637	701		
		23.8%	29.8%		
YES+PAR	1	42.1%	57.9%	26.9%	1968
		829	1139		
		41.9%	37.5%		
		50.4%	49.6%		
YES	2	1459	1437	39.6%	2896
		15.0%	12.7%		
		51.8%	48.2%		
		522	485		
Contribute to Own Support	YES-YES *	1.0%	1.7%	13.8%	1007
		34.0%	66.0%		
		34	66		
		YES-NO *			
	4			1.4%	100
PERCENT		47.6%	52.4%	100.0%	
TOTAL		3481	3828	7309	

CHI-SQUARE

47.287***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 4 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

*Self supporting and classified (yes or no) as independent
by financial aid office.

Table 10

		VEA	NONVEA		
		1	2	TOTAL	
NONE	0	29.7%	29.1%	29.4%	2142
		48.1%	51.9%		
		1031	1111		
		5.0%	5.0%		
		47.5%	52.5%		
1-5	1	173	191	5.0%	364
		7.0%	7.5%		
		45.7%	54.3%		
6-10	2	242	288	7.3%	530
		6.3%	8.1%		
		41.6%	58.4%		
11-15	3	219	308	7.2%	527
		12.0%	12.8%		
		46.0%	54.0%		
16-20	4	416	488	12.4%	904
		5.8%	8.3%		
		38.8%	61.2%		
21-25	5	202	318	7.1%	520
		3.5%	5.7%		
		36.3%	63.7%		
26-30	6	123	216	4.7%	339
		30.7%	23.5%		
		54.3%	45.7%		
31+	7	1064	897	26.9%	1961
PERCENT TOTAL		47.6%	52.4%	100.0%	7287

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

CHI-SQUARE

77.896***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 7 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Table 11

	VEA		NONVEA		TOTAL
	1	2	1	2	
< \$3000 0	15.1%	10.9%	55.3%	44.7%	
					12.9%
	455	368			823
\$3000-5999 1	10.2%	8.6%	51.5%	48.5%	
					9.4%
	309	291			600
\$6000-7499 2	7.4%	5.5%	54.9%	45.1%	
					6.4%
	224	184			408
\$7500-8999 3	7.2%	7.4%	46.8%	53.2%	
					7.3%
	219	249			468
PARENTAL INCOME					
\$9000-11999 4	13.9%	12.9%	49.1%	50.9%	
					13.4%
	421	437			858
\$12000-14999 5	13.7%	13.8%	47.0%	53.0%	
					13.8%
	414	467			881
\$15000-17999 6	8.9%	10.7%	42.8%	57.2%	
					9.9%
	270	361			631
\$18000-20999 7	7.4%	8.5%	43.9%	56.1%	
					8.0%
	224	286			510
\$21000-24999 8	6.6%	7.4%	44.4%	55.6%	
					7.0%
	200	250			450
\$25000+ 9	9.5%	14.3%	37.3%	62.7%	
					12.0%
	287	483			770
PERCENT					
TOTAL					
	47.2%	52.8%	100.0%		
	3023	3376	6399		

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

15

CHI-SQUARE

75.928***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 9 DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Table 12

		VEA	NONVEA		
		1	2	TOTAL	
EOP	NO 0	90.7%	93.2%		
		46.9%	53.1%		
	YES 1	3164	3582	92.0%	
				6746	
		9.3%	6.8%		
		55.5%	44.5%		
	324	260	8.0%		
			584		
	PERCENT		47.6%	52.4%	100.0%
	TOTAL		3488	3842	7330

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

YATES CHI-SQUARE

15.513***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 1 DEGREE OF FREEDOM

Table 13

		VEA	NONVEA	TOTAL
		1	2	
FOOD STAMPS	YES 0	18.3%	13.9%	
		54.7%	45.3%	
		639	530	1169
		81.7%	86.1%	
	NO 1	46.5%	53.5%	
		2851	3286	6137
		47.8%	52.2%	100.0%
		3490	3816	7306

UPPER CELL ENTRIES ARE PERCENT OF COLUMN TOTALS
PERCENT OF ROW TOTALS

YATES CHI-SQUARE

26.175***

SIGNIFICANCE UNDER .001 WITH 1 DEGREE OF FREEDOM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

OCT 28 1977

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES